Extent of child labour

TABLE 3
CHILD LABOR IN 1816 AND 1835
(in percent)

Workers	*1816*	*1835*
Cotton Industry		
under age 10	6.8	0.3
under age 13	20.0 (estimated)	13.1
under age 18	51.2	43.4
Flax Industry		
under age 10	6.5	0.4
under age 13	22.7 (estimated)	13.5
under age 18	60.2	47.7

Note: The flax data are for Scotland only. The percent of workers under 13 was estimated for 1816 by assuming that the ratio of 10-12 year olds to 10-17 year olds was the same in 1816 as in 1833. The data for 1816 are far less reliable than those for 1835; there is no reason to suppose, however, that they are systematically biased.

Source: Parliamentary Papers, *Report of the Children's Employment Committee* (1816), *Supplementary Report of the Factories Inquiry Commission* (1834), *Reports of the Inspectors of Factories*, 31 October 1835.

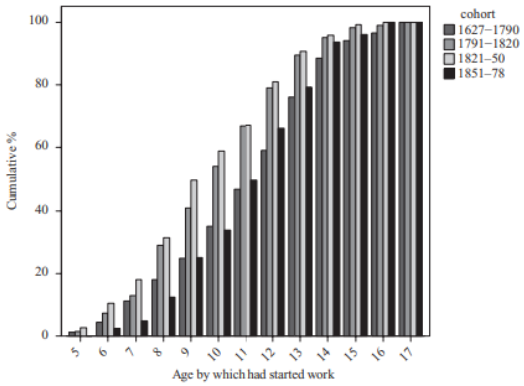


Figure 1. *Age at starting work, by cohort*
Source: Working-class autobiographies listed in Humphries, *Childhood and child labour*.

Standards of Living (Indicators like height and nutrition) | Labour Mkt Equilibrium w/ Child Labour

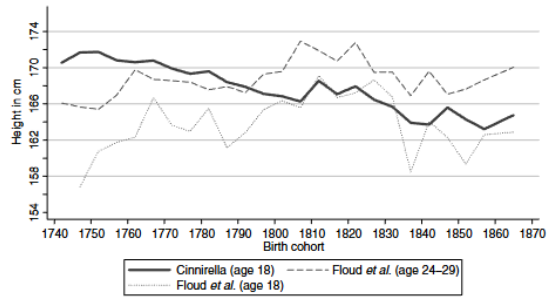


Figure 7. *Average height trend in Britain, 1740–1865*

Note: Our trend is averaged by occupations and origins. The weights of the coefficients are defined on the basis of sample frequencies.

Source: Table 2; Floud *et al.* (1990, pp. 140–9).

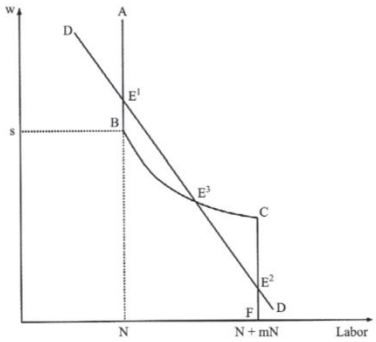
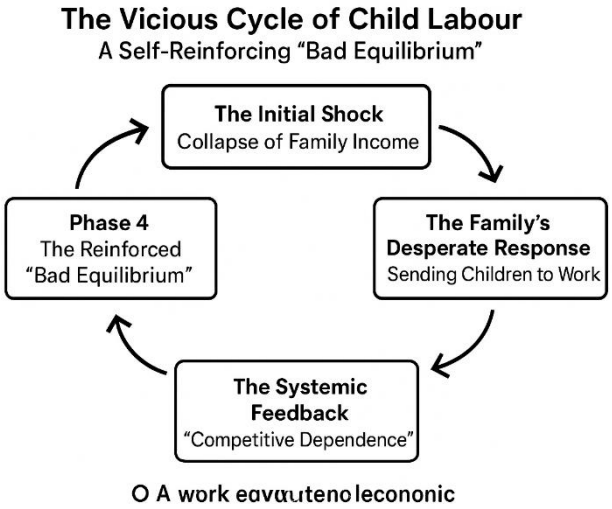


Figure 5. *Labour market with child labour*
Source: As for fig. 1.

Child Labour Cycle



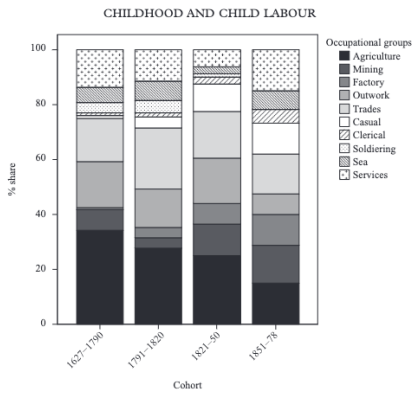
Countering counterarguments (Recalculated growth rates of GDP compared w/ wage increases)

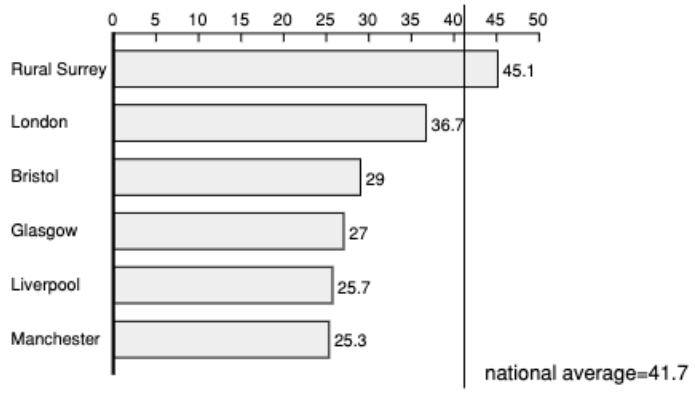
Table 9.2 Estimates of economic growth and real wages in Great Britain, 1780–1870

	GDP per capita	Real wages			
	Crafts–Harley, Maddison	Lindert and Williamson	Feinstein	Allen	Clark
	Total increase for each sub-period, %				
1780–1830	25	50	14	12	35
1830–1850	33	30	20	4	13
1850–1870	37	n.a.	9	20	24

Sources: Estimates for GDP per capita increases are from Crafts and Harley (1992) for 1780–1830 and from Maddison (2003a) for 1830–1870.

Child Labour by Industry and Cohorts | Where was Child Labour concentrated (19c England)





Builders real day wages

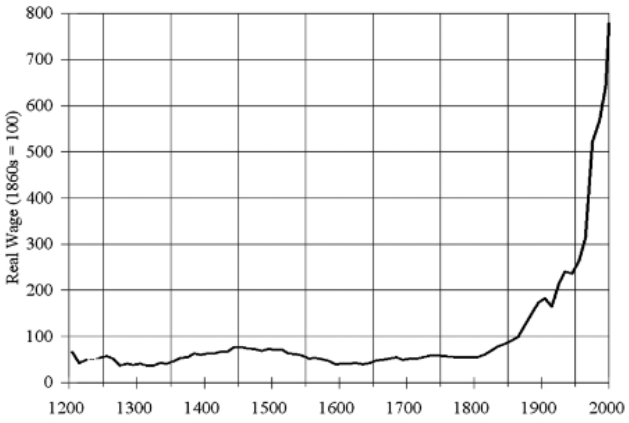


FIG. 1.—Builders' real day wages, 1209–2004 (source: table A2)